On the vexations
& distresses of a
medical life.

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Introductory lecture
on the vexations & Difficulties
of a medical life
delivered nov 27. 1797

Gentlemen/

You are convened here this day for the purpose of hearing an ~~introductory lecture~~ introduction to a Course of Lectures upon the Institutes of medicine, and the practice of Physic. Previously to my entering upon these ~~duties of my Professorship I shall~~ subjects, I shall deliver a few Observations upon the ~~Vexations~~ points & phasses ~~&~~ ~~distresses~~ of a medical life. ~~This~~ detail of the former will ~~be useful to you. Like a Map of a country over which you are about to travel, you~~ it

The

V The ~~pleasures~~ history of the latter ~~pleasures~~ ~~of a which attend the profession~~ will likewise I hope be useful. ~~It will~~ it ~~serve~~ acquaintate you in your studies, & will tend ~~and~~ to ~~cur form~~ to lessen, if not to destroy the fears that may be excited by the previous detail ~~history~~ of ~~the~~ the ~~the~~ pains which accompany the life of a physician. These pains ——

—— ~~The pains of may~~ naturally divide themselves into Vexation - Solicitude & Distress. I shall make a few remarks upon each of them. ~~And~~ The sources of vexation to a physician arise 1st from the ignorance of the bulk of

will serve to show you in the first place the difficulties and dangers to which you will be exposed in your present pur=
=suits, and if it should not enable you to avoid them, it may anticipation prepare you to meet and submit to them with a becoming spirit of dignity & resignation.

From the Science of medicine hav=
=ing been so long locked up in the dead languages, and in technical terms, the knowledge of it has been for many ages confined chiefly to the Physicians or medical men. For this reason, the bulk of mankind

mankind of the nature of medicine
hence ~~this~~ ~~they~~ persons ignorant judge of his opinions &
practice, and thereby detract from his
~~for physicians too often~~
~~point on~~ reputation & business. ~~But~~
See 18 & 22
a 2nd source of vexation to a physician
is derived from his Brethren, ~~this source~~
& discovers itself ~~discovers itself into~~ ~~1st from their~~ 1st in this
ignorance ~~This ignorance~~ discovers itself
~~In the~~ of the principles of medicine
& envy —

resign their Understandings upon medical subjects, wholly to their Physicians. Hence ~~the~~ the fa incandid & erroneous opinions which are always formed of new theories, ~~opinions~~ and new modes of practice by the world. The ~~prejudice~~ long & deep rooted prejudices which were formerly entertained against mercury & the Peruvian Bark, were excited, and perpetuated chiefly by Physicians. In no ~~other~~ except medicine, ~~have human kind~~ are men ~~been~~ deprived ~~for centuries~~ of the benefit of thinking and judging ~~useful discoveries, because in other sciences, men think and judge~~ for themselves. Indeed the

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influence of false opinions, upon just practice, thus imposed upon the world, arises a constant source of Vexation to a Physician.

II ~~Ob 2d~~ 2ly From the same ignorance of medicine among the common people, arises the ~~[illegible]~~ unequal distribution of business and reputation ~~among Physicians. But in most cases, gets the better of science, and~~ in our profession. The patronage of a powerful name, the influence of a party, ~~or~~ imposing manners, or mere technical learning, often give the highest eminence of medicine. Some of the most popular Physicians ~~that~~ have ever lived, have been weak, or ~~dull~~ ignorant men, while many ~~[illegible]~~ others

~~+ mention the pain from the error of~~
~~import^n of yellow fever.~~ —

V nor is this all, ~~the worst of~~ ~~the worst~~ ~~remain~~
~~the treatment of disease has frequently~~
~~no influence upon the practice of Phy-~~
~~-sicians, who are supported by a party,~~
~~and the greatest success~~ Reputation & Fortune ~~is~~
~~from~~ have often been attached to the most
unsuccessful practice — and in some instances
to the grossest habits of profanity.

V ~~morality estimable~~ in all other
professions — thought of no consequence
in a physician. Some of the most
popular physicians I have known
have been wicked & deistical as well as weak,
and yet these men have been patro-
-nized by good Christians.

possessed of talents & ~~from the want~~, knowledge, from the want of the accidental advantages that have been mentioned, have passed their lives in obscurity, or been compelled to seek for subsistance from ~~other~~ a change of their pursuits in life. — By a law in our nature it is impossible to contemplate the scenes of error and vice without pain, and from hence arises ~~To behold therefore the honors & emoluments of soaring heaped upon dulness and incapacity~~ a second source of vexation to an enlightened & sensible Physician. — vexation from seeing bad as well as ignorant men confided in. ~~3 Envy among~~ which exists more or less in all professions, exists its

V A physician objected to blood letting in a case of ~~the~~ yellow fever in the year 1793 in a consultation, and gave as a reason for it that the human body contained but twelve pounds of blood.

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III a third source of vexation to a Physician arises from ~~the~~ Ignorance of such of his Brethren as he is obliged to consult with in the course ~~his Ignorance appears in the laws of the animal~~ of his business. This ignorance appears 1 in the Statutes laws of the animal Oeconomy. 2 in the laws of Epidemicks. There is no fact in medicine more clearly established, than that where powers of unequal force meet in the same place ~~city~~, the ~~most~~ powerful ones ~~compels~~ chases away those which are ~~of lesser malignity~~ weak ~~are~~ or compel them ~~to disappear~~ ~~or~~ to assume some of ~~its~~ this characteristic symptoms. — ~~This~~ To a Physician who has ~~been~~ adopted this universal & immutable law of diseases, ~~which~~ how great must ~~be his~~ the vexation when he

V 3 by ~~Ignorance of exciting Causes~~ - an ignorance of the difference between the remote, & exciting causes of diseases is a frequent ~~cause~~ source of Vexation in the ~~intercourse~~ connexion Physicians have with each other in sick rooms. ~~many~~ In most of the cases of the yellow fever which lately occurred in our city, ~~during the late one~~ the ~~disease~~ exhalation ~~or contagion~~ which produced them, ~~or wise~~ was quiescent, until ~~they are~~ it was brought into action by an exciting cause, such as fatigue, cold, heat or intemperance. This exciting

~~finding~~ finds himself exposed in a sick room by a man who ~~supposes this~~ is ignorant of this law, and who supposes ~~that fevers from~~ different causes & of different force, may possess a character totally independant of each other And of course that they ought to be treated by different remedies. ~~But~~ 4 by ~~the ignorance of~~ many Physicians are ignorant of the Unity & simplicity of diseases, ~~and~~ as depending upon one proximate cause, and hence arises another source of vexation ~~to that Physician who~~ ~~to~~ in consultations. ~~Everywhere by~~ where a diversity of opinion prevails upon this subject, every new symptom is considered as a new disease, and of course different medicines are

cause was ~~disapproved~~ believed to be the remote one, and a patient who died in five days with petechiæ, & a black Vomiting, was supposed to die of the effects of a long walk, of wetting his feet, or of drinking a few extraordinary glasses of wine. —

~~cable for~~ prescribed to cure it. 5 by an ignorance
of the uniform manner in which ~~medicines~~ Remedies apparently
different, ~~operate~~ in their nature, act
upon diseases, affords frequent occasions
for vexation to an enlightned Physician
in his ~~medical~~ intercourse with his Bre-
-thren. — ~~Bleeding, vomiting~~ Bleeding, vomiting
purging, sweating, fasting, & salivation,
are all ~~but~~ modifications of but one Remedy,
viz Depletion, and yet how often do
we see each of them contended for
as if ~~they~~ it, possessed a specific action
upon the body. again - all Physicians
agree in the ~~in~~ humane practice of
alliviating the passage out of life in
diseases that are incurable, by frequent

doses of opium, and yet how few of them will admit of ~~producing~~ imparting the same sleeping by any other remedy, al=
=though there are several, ~~remedies~~ which produce that effect with more certainty, and without the least risk of impairing the Understanding. ~~The ignorance disco=
=vered by this want of the ignorance dis=
=covered by this~~ The Calumnies which have followed the extension of a principle equally just in science & morals, disco=
=vers ~~an~~ a degree of ignorance which places the ~~mind~~ reason of man upon a level with the ~~instinct of Brutes~~. ~~It inspires~~
In contemplating all the instances of igno=
=rance in Physicians which have been mentioned, we cannot wonder at the resentment

V However great all these causes of vexation, from ignorance may ~~must~~ be to a Physician, they must be submitted to, if he means to live in harmony with his brethren, for consultations among Physicians are intended ~~com~~ for the most part, ~~not~~ for their own benefit, instead of the benefit of their patients.

which a view of it has sometimes
excited in the minds of sensible men.
Mr. Jno. Hunter is said to have died
of a paroxysm of vexation occasioned
by disputing with ~~Bros of his Brother~~ ~~a fool, and of~~
one of his brethren, to a
much wiser man than Mr Hunter
has left chapters ~~by~~ behind him
in which he has recorded ~~the~~ his painful
feelings ~~a~~ upon reviewing the character
& effects of folly as ~~it~~ they appear in ~~all~~
human ~~the~~ affairs. ~~of human life~~

IV ~~By~~ by Envy by its ~~malignant~~ influence
in medicine is another source of
vexation to a Physician. This ma-
-lignant passion

+ see an act of Vorsuicler's envious conduct towards Dr Hirnus in Vienna. Rogley Vol. 11. p. 70.

V by false, or uncandid Accounts of the nature, or issue of prescriptions.

~~malignant influence with more jealousy~~ peculiar
~~in medicine. It~~ appears in various
ways. 1 In ~~this way~~ the measures which
are employed by Physicians to depre-
-ciate each other's talents & knowledge.
2ly In the means which are em-
-ployed to lessen the Credit of each
other's practice, In the ~~yellow fever~~
~~which prevailed in this city in the~~
year 1793 ~~none~~ no persons were admitted to
have had the yellow fever in Philad.a who were
not cured by Bark and Wine. A
Physician who deserted his patients
~~in~~ ~~in~~ the beginning of that fever,
recovered this confidence after his
return by aspersing all such of.

them as had been cured of the yellow fever ~~of~~ by depleting remedies, ~~that~~ they had been indisposed with nothing but trifling intermittentes or remitting fevers. — ~~The~~ A belief in this assertion was not only ~~excited~~ produced by this Physician, but ~~his~~ a degree of resentment was excited in the minds of his patients ~~who had~~ against the Physicians who had, as they supposed, deceived them by a contrary opinion.

3. Envy discovers itself among Physicians by inventing & propagating falsehoods respecting the ~~faults~~ figure of each Other's practice. ~~Deaths~~ ~~Hence~~ Losses in an Epidemic, are invented, or magnified, and death is often ascribed to Remedies which are innocent, or

which instead of being hurtful, have ~~been~~ failed of saving life, only because ~~they have been the~~ the early or improper, use of them has been controulled by the patients, or his friends. The influence of Envy under this head extends to ~~the~~ most ~~an~~ shameful measures. What do you think gent.n of a Physician resorting to ~~the~~ the houses of persons who have died under the care of a Brother physician & secretly inquiring of their nurses what medicines had been used in ~~their~~ their cases? ~~of those patients~~ ~~This~~ This has been twice done in this city, and ~~it~~ in one instance a most ~~abominable~~ impudent falsehood propagated of the cause of the

V Dr Rush's publication in favor of Bark & wine in every ~~dis~~ - also Importn of yellow fever - from publicity to the man who propagated the contrary Opinion.

patients death. [But Envy extends still further under this head. It ascribes the death of persons to physicians who have never seen them.]

4 ~~Envy discovers itself by denying~~ ~~among Phys-~~ ~~-icians by their~~ In denying to each other the credit of discoveries and improve-ments in medicine. ~~Dr~~ The discovery of the circulation of the blood by the celebrated Dr Harvey, was ~~long~~ opposed for many years by his cotemporary Physicians. After it was admitted, ~~the~~ An Attempt was made to deprive him of the honor of it, by ascribing it first to a French Physician, and afterwards ~~by~~ to ~~some hints which are~~ to ~~the~~ writings of Hippocrates.

Dr Morton mentions the name of a man who acquired a great deal of popular favor & knowledge by railing against the Use of the Bark, who ~~has~~ was ~~after~~ detected ~~at~~ the same time in administering it to his patients in a disguised form in Intermittent fevers. A Physician of some note in this city, who was the most ~~clam~~ indecent in his clamors against mercury in the yellow fever, ~~to~~ 1793. was ~~exposed~~ ~~to the~~ ~~complai~~ detected in the use of it by ~~the~~ a salivation which it produced in one of his patients.

5 In ~~many shows itself by~~ Physicians withholding such testimonies in favor of each other's practice, as are calculated to establish the credit of new remedies. Sometimes the force of public clamor compels Physicians to adopt new & popular remedies contrary to their inclinations. In these cases, it is truly vexatious to hear of the arcanas they use to conceal, or disguise the use of those remedies. For example, if the remedy be Calomel as a purge, they pretend to give it only to excite a salivation, or if the remedy be Bleeding in a yellow

fever, they continue to avoid the clamour against frequent, by very copious bleeding, or they meet the prejudices of the public by ~~pulsing that this prescription~~ altering the name of the disease for which they ~~prescribed~~ prescribe bleeding, and by calling a yellow fever a pleurisy, or ~~Rheumatism~~ a hepatitis, escape the censure which is attached to that remedy in a fever absurdly supposed to be of a putrid nature. Dr Sydenham has left a stigma upon all such practitioners by his high encomiums upon Dr Goodall who after adopting his practice of bleeding

But this depravity of mind sometimes assumes another form. Physicians sometimes join the popular cry against a new medicine, & yet secretly use it. Dr Morton mentions a man of the name of Tabor who used this deceit in respect to the Bark, & Dr Stahl a case of the same kind in a physician. Mercury used secretly by a physician in 1793 till a fatal who had most loudly abused it till a fabrication detected him. —

in a suppression of Urine in a single case ~~as~~ in the small pox, comes forward with his testimony in favor of that remedy, notwithstanding he exposed himself in so doing, to the malice of all the Physicians in London who at that time were confederated against that illustrious Reformer of the healing Art. —

Such Gent.n are the effects of Envy in medicine. No wonder it is branded with so much ~~foul a Character~~ infamy ~~reproachful Name~~ by moral writers. Lord Bacon has happily said that it "knows no holidays," and Solomon after comparing it to ~~its cyon~~ action to the pain of adds further, "wrath" "rottenness ~~it~~ in the bones. ~~Anger~~ is

V. ly Interest ~~[illegible]~~ in the members of the faculty, is a 5th source of vexation to a Physician. Hence they seldom fail of combining against those men who attempt to render the science of medicine intelligible to the common people, and thereby to enable them to cure themselves.

Dr Tipot lived at Lausane ~~in Switzerland~~ in a state of domestic exile. He lost all his business among his fellow citizens soon after he published his invaluable book entitled "Advice to the people". — a 6th & last source of

[Except here Physicians, Coldwell p. 19 who generously do support love & truth & Reason]

emul, & Anger is outrageous, but who can stand before Envy? Prov: 27. 4. —

I might here mention certain medical Vices ~~of Physicians~~ as a Source of Vexation to a benevolent & upright Physician, but these shall be the Subject of a future Lecture. — But

6ly I proceed to mention some sources of vexation to a Physician which arise from ~~causes unconnected with his Profession~~ the opinions & prejudices of the world. — ~~The~~ From the dependant state of our profession, we are precluded from ~~entertaining~~ chasing our principles ~~of any kind upon~~ upon the Subject of government — ~~many Physicians in Britain had~~

V characters, ~~during~~ were driven from the United States during ~~the~~ our late war with great ~~British~~ Britain, for holding monarchical sentiments, ~~the~~ while many more in Britain & Ireland have ~~been~~ lost their business, or been compelled to migrate to foreign countries, for publickly ~~professing~~ an attachment to the equal rights of man.

X vexation arises from the ingratitude of Physicians, ~~on the contrary~~ to each other. Shenstone says servants are to be tied only by interest. The same cement unites Physicians. Some of the most malignant persecutors have been Physicians who owe most ~~of this~~ to

several Physicians of ~~of~~ respectable
~~Ireland have lost their employs, and some~~
have been obliged to seek an asylum in
this country, for having so far yielded
to the native & just impulses of their
hearts as to acknowledge an affection
for liberty, and an equal love for
their fellow men. ~~Nations~~ During the
American Revolution several Physicians ~~were~~
acted a distinguished part
~~called frequently to act~~ in the Cabinet
& in the field. The ~~times~~ dangers of the
times produced a tolleration for their
principles & conduct, but since the
establishment of the general Government,
Physicians have been consigned by pub-
-lic opinion to their original political
insignificance, and a decision upon a

my friendship. — Two of these even ~~I believe~~ probably one this lives to my presumptions. — Should this ~~party offensive~~ ~~ever meet this eyes, or should~~ after ~~any~~ remark ever be conveyed ~~to them,~~ ~~and they~~ from this room, it will not wonder long before it will be ~~itself up in the bosoms in taken~~ met by the persons to whom it belongs. — If they retain their feelings as men, — ~~they~~ with their recollection of y^r: conduct ~~will be~~ they will inflict a punishment upon themselves, which ~~I would not endure for all the wealth of a tho of the world.~~ I would not endure for all the wealth in the World. —

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public Question ~~according to its views~~ ~~never fails to~~ ~~Aspect upon the interests of the ruling power,~~ never fails to injure the business and reputation of a Physician. ~~There is~~ neutrality upon questions interesting to ~~human~~ public happiness was considered & punished as a Crime in Athens, but this neutrality so infamous in a grecian Republic, is considered as a virtue ~~in the Republic United States~~ among modern nations.

To be of no party, is like being of no sex, ~~And a Physician who~~ a Physician who by administering sedatives to his political passions, has attained to this harmless character, may be compared to those ~~neutrals~~ degraded who administer to luxury & vice, ~~in~~ men ~~in Eastern Countries who neutralize themselves in order to acquire a genteel~~

~~Subsistence~~ in the Seraglios of the Eastern countries]. —

The charge of infidelity is often brought against the profession of medicine. — If the charge be true, ~~many causes concur to~~ ~~was produce it~~ — ~~But~~ may not one of the causes of it be, the dread of offending the different sects of Christians by embracing the tenets of any one of them? An establishment in medicine, may enable ~~Reasonable guide & character have~~ ~~in all ages enabled~~ a Physician ~~to~~ to profess a belief in the ~~and practice~~ doctrines of Christianity, and to associate with a particular church, but where this is ~~one~~ wanting, I suspect that unbelief, and a ~~neglect indifferent~~ neglect of public worship, have often

been the ~~effects of that servility~~ obsequious & ~~slavish fear~~, which ~~are~~ appear to be necessarily attached to medicine.

There is one more view of the dependant condition of a Physician, which has ~~in most of the cities of the world~~ proved a cause of great vexation, and that is, the ~~Clamor of~~ public clamor ~~consume~~ which always follows his declaration of the existence of a ~~cont~~ malignant or contagious disease in the city in which he ~~lives~~ resides. Many Physicians have been persecuted into ~~the life~~ voluntary banishment by this clamor, and we read of one who in consequence of such a declaration, ~~who~~ was compelled to save his life from the resentment of an angry mob by a retreat to a church, ~~see History of Catharine II~~

upon the commerce, & injure the property of his fellow citizens —.

Can any flaw of suffering virtue be conceived of more tangible than this? — to behold the first onset of a mortal Epidemic, — to ~~see~~ foresee ~~its~~ the great & extensive destruction which it is ~~preparing~~ likely to bring upon a city; — to ~~know~~ be certain that it is in the power of human means to check it in its forming state, — and yet not to dare to make known the existence of this disease, lest it should ~~infuse the~~ spread terror into the country, and thereby ~~prevent the~~ a ~~sale of a few hogsheads of Brandy or sale of~~ ~~take produce a temporary suspension of the com~~ ~~of Southern wine~~ — a bale of ~~cambrics or~~ ~~prevent the sale of a few bales of any goods!~~ ~~a box of silks, a cask of Southern wine,~~ ~~a pipe of wine,~~ ~~or a few hogsheads of Brandy~~ or tobacco? ~~Shall~~ ~~the~~ ~~any~~ ~~one~~ one — shall ~~all~~ these articles — shall ~~the~~ trade of a city for a single season — ~~may more~~ shall

the wealth of the globe, be put in com=
=petition with a single life, — much less
with the lives of thousands? Shall
~~fat~~ the fangs of death be rendered infinitely
more poignant by the ~~terror, the solitude~~ numerous evils
~~& the poverty~~ which generally accompany
both from a contagious & mortal
Epidemic? — Yes — ~~all these calamities~~ Silence & secrecy
must be ~~so submitted to & consciously~~ observed upon this interesting
occasion, ~~must be stifled, — cannot the commun~~ otherwise a Physician
cannot ~~maintain~~ procure his business, or
reputation? — But the restraints of
duty & conscience, do not end here. He must
derive this mortal Epidemic from
some foreign country, and permit
~~his fellow citizens~~ a whole city to stay in

Security, amidst all the foul causes which produce it, ~~endangers a return of it~~ lest he should injure ~~upon~~ the commerce, or plunder upon the property of his fellow citizens. To submit to vice is painful, but ~~to~~ when this vice is ~~complicated with~~ madness ~~ignorance & folly, the sacrifice is doubly painful. In~~ what words shall we describe the vexation of submitting to those incalculable degrees of folly & madness which lead men to seek for the origin ~~causes~~ of pestilential diseases in imaginary causes ~~which elude all investigation~~ and deny or conceal ~~our look~~ those real sources of it which are subject to human power & which ~~are within this reach, & which~~

v If he mistakes light of a disease, & Death follows, he is accused of ignorance — If - he alarms - he kills his patient by fear.

might as easily be obviated, as the com=
=mon inclemencies of the weather.

From the peculiar obstinacy of
error upon this subject, it ~~is~~ does not
require ~~the~~ a ~~pro~~ prophetic spirit to foretell
the future destiny of our cities. They
will probably one day expiate their folly ~~the~~
~~Afterwards became wind~~ by sharing
the fate of Rome, Naples, London, Marseilles,
Brest, and other cities in Europe, which
have been ~~ravaged~~ nearly desolated by pestilential
diseases.

VII. ly I return from this short digression,
to point out ~~other~~ those causes of vexation
~~from~~ to a physician which are
derived from his patients. These

+ Obliging them to wait with other engage-
-ments, till they have ~~done~~ dressed themselves ~~not~~, or finished ~~not~~
a meal.

V in his being compelled to assume
the vesture of patience in order to
listen to their tedious & uninteres-
-ting histories of their dis~~orders~~ cases —
also to impertinent questions from relatives
about the issue of the disease.

× Physicians but half rewarded — This self denial
in depriving themselves of locomotive plea-
-sures — seclusion from company — exclusion
from home — exposure to being called out at
night &c not recollected in a bill. Players
&c Adam Smith says p^d for disgrace profession &c
why not physicians?

consist in his numerous & unnecessary calls from his bed, from his meals, and from company. — in ~~their~~ the disobedience of his patients to his prescriptions, — in their petulant complaints of his medicines, or of his supposed neglect in attending upon them — in his ~~constant~~ constant society, and of self denial of the pleasures of occasional excursions from home, ~~and of regular visits to the coun~~

[But are there no cordials &c — no gratitude — no smiling resulting from family to meet us in our complacent visits, &c — no — &c

— in the ingratitude with which he is treated by his patients, manifested in ~~by~~ their delays or ~~neglect~~ refusal to pay his bills, & in their ~~unexplaining~~ dismissing him from this service ~~for an~~ to gratify ~~the~~ this own caprice, or the humor of a friend, or a neighbors.

Sometimes this Ingratitude to Physicians appears ~~to~~ a more public

I have been much struck by observing many families whom I have attended in humble life & confined &c when rich - even by brokerage have deserted me, & with their carriage & country seats have ~~[illegible]~~ conformed to fash:-ion by employing the popular City Phy:-sician. But this is not all - Physicians form attachm^ts of friendship to ye patients - they are deserted by them E.g: Mr Willing - Mr Caldwell &c -. Some patients leave us when elevated, lest they shd be reminded when they see us, of their humble situation when ~~the~~ our knowledge first commenced - Some because ~~they~~ wont pay us - persuade others to do so - are beforehand in resentment.

Caprice of patients - prefered B Duf^d Dunk to any other Man. Sober - & Dr Kearsely's opening a Curtain &c to ~~[illegible]~~ Visits from all the Other Physicians in the City. ——

forms, and appears in the conduct of whole cities & communities. ~~In the~~ ~~After~~ ~~the~~ close of the year 1793 the citizens of Philad^a assembled at the State house, and voted with their thanks, a piece of plate valued at 100 Dollars to each of the committee who had superintended the city during the prevalence of the fever of that year. a motion was afterwards made to thank the Physicians of the city for their Services. This motion was ~~not~~ ~~negatived~~ not seconded. — ~~The~~ The services rendered to the city by ~~of~~ the Physicians may be easily conceived when I add, ~~that this~~ patients consisted chiefly of poor people, ~~&~~ that out of about 35 who remained in the city, 8 died, and of the survivors, but three

Vexations as it may be to review this instance of ingratitude, ~~to~~ Physicians, it was an act of kindness, compared with the treatment they met with in the present year, while performing the same services to their fellow citizens at the risk of their lives, and over the graves of some of their brethren who had recently perished with the disorder. Language was exhausted of all its opprobious epithets in the abuse which was poured out against many of the Physicians of the city. The Quarters from whence this abuse came, would have rendered it harmless, had it not been received with pleasure or indifference by a great majority of the citizens of

escaped an attack of the fever.

From an examination of medi-
-cal history, ~~no other countries~~, it ap-
-pears that the same causes of vexation
have existed in other countries, and that
Physicians have suffered more or less
in all ages from each other, from
~~their~~ the world, from their patients,
and from the slaves in which they
have resided. Dr Harvey lost all his
business after his discovery of the cir-
-culation of the blood, ~~probably~~ Dr from
~~the~~ a confederacy of his brethren agst.
him. It is said he lost his health,
and eye sight soon afterwards, and
that in a hypocondrical paroxysm,

of Philadelphia. — Merciful men would have treated ~~beast~~ domestic beasts with more humanity, more especially if they had at the time of their sufferings been labouring ~~for the laboriously~~ for this benefit.

To these general observations upon the ingratitude & cruelty of the world to Physicians, there ~~are~~ always have been, & still are ~~a few~~ some exceptions; ~~too few~~ but these are so few as barely to prove that ~~Religion~~ the Governor of the Universe in no condition whatever, leaves ~~his creatures~~ them without a witness in favor of his goodness. May the dew of heaven descend for ever upon those kind souls, who under all circumstances, remember their medical Benefactors with gratitude & affection!

he ~~destroyed~~ terminated his life by a dose of opium. — The famous Dr Hodges who performed prodigies of fortitude & humanity in the Plague of 1664 in London, ~~died~~ was confined some years afterwards for debt in a Gaol ~~a broken heart in Newgate~~ where ~~in which~~ ~~place~~ he died of a broken heart. His misfortunes ~~too~~ were probably brought on by the malice & envy of his brethren.

Many other ~~similar~~ instances of the sufferings of Physicians from the neglect, and the ingratitude of the public ~~which have been commemorated~~, are to be met with in the records of medicine. Sometimes the ~~was~~ malice of physicians and of the public vent themselves in open abuse in newspapers & other publications. The year 1797 will long be remembered in Philad^a for the torrents of abuse which were

and pray God forgive those who are devoid of these virtues — for such men there are in ~~Philadelphia~~ every country. One of my bitterest prosecutors during the late Epidemic, was a man whose whole family I saved from death in the year 1793. In one of my visits to this ~~house~~ family, I well recollect I was so much ~~worn down~~ weakened ~~[illegible]~~ by sickness, that I was obliged to ~~rest~~ lie down upon a chest for some minutes on his stair case, before I could reach the room ~~where he lay~~ in which my patient was ~~lodged~~ poured forth against several of her physicians ~~for~~ for six weeks from two of the most popular presses in the city. This abuse was instigated ~~by a certain John Alden~~ chiefly by their brethren, and for no

I come now just to the 2nd part of the subject of this lecture, ~~this~~ and that is to say a few words upon the

II Distresses of a medical life. —

These arise from many causes.

In the 1st place our intercourse with our fellow creatures ~~patients~~ is confined ~~only~~ to those times in which they are unhappy, ~~which~~ from ~~that is sad~~ this sympathy with the sick members of their family, and from the dread of losing them. ~~B~~ In ~~our~~ visiting ~~to~~ our patients, moreover we often make discoveries which are of a ~~most~~ distressing nature, such as poverty & domestic infelicity from

Other offence than differing from them in their opinions of the Origin and treatment of our late Epidemic. ~~The~~ The rancour ~~to malignity~~ of the publications alluded to may easily be conceived when I add that they were compared ~~to~~ by a Clergy=man in a neighbouring State to the mouth of Hell disgorging its contents upon the ~~persons~~ physicians who were the subjects of them. ~~Thus the inhumanity of this conduct~~

V The clay cold wrist with the hand still warm — the half closed or glazy eye — the panting breast — the faultering Speech — ~~the longing look after a~~ a pled, wounded by a groups of weeping Children — and above all an affectionate wife, ~~weeping a~~ ~~lips with a~~ ~~pressing his~~ dumb with anguish ~~by his bed side~~ performing the last sad offices of ~~love~~ kindness to the her beloved partner of her life ~~pinching~~ ~~the lip~~ ~~the her~~ with her shrieks in an adjoining room —

 Drink among others —

all its numerous curses. — But these are light sources of distress, compared with being obliged frequently from the inefficacy of our art, to witness ~~in~~ the grief which ~~all~~ is occasioned by the death of a ~~valuable head of a family, or of~~ a favorite, or only child, or of a valuable head of a family. ~~the weakness & inefficacy of the healing Art our profession~~. — Still deeper is the ~~pierce~~ ~~the two~~ distress, when we ~~are called~~ have been unsuccessful in the ~~usefulness~~ exercise of the duties of our profession, towards our particular and beloved friends. — Here gent.n I ~~must~~ could ~~make a pause~~ wish to retire a few minutes from your sight to indulge my ~~to~~ tears! ~~for~~ The late epidemic ~~late disease~~ ~~and victims of~~ has inflicted fresh wounds upon this heart. — I shall not trouble ~~detain~~ you by ~~dwel~~ describing them.

V In losing patients for whom we do not feel the ties of affection, we are often distressed if ~~we~~ our minds are under the influence of Christian Principles by observing the indifference to futurity with which they are permitted by their friends leave the world. ~~by their friends~~. Their only solitude appears to consist in keeping them ignorant of their impending fate, and their only consolation in knowing ~~or~~ believing that they feel no pain.

They shall continue to bleed in secret, until time, with respect to myself, shall be no more. V

Besides the distress from which Physicians experience ~~compass~~ the causes which have been mentioned, ~~they with Individuals~~, ~~they~~ are exposed to feel a large share of that distress which is introduced into a city by the prevalence of a great & mortal Epidemic. — ~~How~~ Citizens agitated, and distracted by the dissentions ~~of~~ Physicians! — Parents deserted by their Children, — children deserted by their parents, — the sick attended, ~~by~~ ~~and~~ or neglected only by mercenary ~~or sleeping~~ Nurses, — our ears ~~rent in~~ assailed in walking the Streets with the groans ~~on~~ & Shrieks of the dying, — our eyes

and above all, our sensibility harrowed up perpetually by ineffectual applications to us to alleviate the misery that has been described. —

met in entering the doors of our patients, ~~with~~ by a ~~no~~ wife, or a parent in the first anguish of grief, for the loss of a husband or a child, — ~~a pale & bodily~~ — gloom, & dejection — ~~sheets deserted & silent~~ sitting upon ~~pervading pervading~~ every countenance, — Streets deserted, & silent, or vocal only with the noise of ~~hear~~ hearses conveying ~~the~~ dead to their long homes. ~~Those are the~~ Such ~~to~~ are the scenes which many of us have witnessed in this country, but they ~~are~~ exhibit a faint idea of distress, compared with that which Physicians have often experienced during the prevalence of pestilential fevers in many of

Physicians in society, are like ex=
=traneous animals ~~substances~~ in the human body. They
were never made to assimilate with
it, and ~~they can neither~~ they can never
be at rest in their foreign & unnatu=
=ral situation. —

the cities in Europe. —

Thus have I briefly enumerated the principal sources of vexation and distress of a medical life. I have one more observation to make upon them, & that is, — they are, ~~discouraged by the picture I have given you of the evils which await you in the service of your profession. They are not of an incurable nature,~~ ~~They are~~ under the present circumstances of our profession, — of an incurable nature. — What then is to be done? — The answer is obvious. Let us unite our efforts, and render the science of medicine so simple, & its knowledge so universal, as to

~~that~~ that ~~under~~ the exercise of the profession by a distinct body of men, shall ~~cease~~ to be ~~wholly un-~~ necessary. — It never can be true, ~~that~~ the Supreme Being made the means of ~~preserving of~~ health so easy & intelligible to common capacities, and at the same time made the means of restoring ~~restoring of~~ it a business of such immense difficulty ~~& labor~~, as to require six or seven years labor and study to become acquainted with them. I am satisfied that 1/4 of the time which is spent in learning the ~~[illegible]~~ dead ~~[illegible]~~ languages, ~~or~~ ~~[illegible]~~ in early life would be sufficient to teach a young man all the elementary parts of medicine, ~~[illegible]~~ and thereby enable

him to acquire ~~the~~ its practical parts in the course of a few months. I speak here of medicine as stripped of all that mass of error which has been connected with it for ages, and ~~which has~~ as lately simplified, ~~in the~~ in the United States.

The present King of Britain upon reading the account of the ~~deposi-~~ ~~deposition~~ death of Lewis the XVI ~~as~~ it is said expressed an apprehension that there would not be a King in Europe in 30 years. Should the present spirit of inquiry in medicine conti-
-nue to prevail in our country, & Should medical knowledge pervade the common peo-
-ple as rapidly & extensively for

30 years to come, as it has done for 30 years past, I will venture to predict that there will not be business ~~for an~~ enough ~~in~~ ~~within~~ of the end of that time, for more than one or two physicians in any of the cities of the United States. — This prediction is founded upon ~~the observation of~~ the following facts. Thirty years ago, no person in this city took a dose of Bark or Laudanum without the advice of a physician. At present the citizens of Philad.a prescribe & purchase for themselves of the apothe=caries Bark, Laudanum, ~~Cremors~~ Tartar Emetic, Calomel, Jalap, and even Blisters, by which means

they cure many diseases ~~in this for~~ for a few cents which formerly cost them ~~as many~~ Double the Number of Dollars and pounds. — But this is not the only proof of the progress of medical knowledge & in our country. ~~that can be given~~. During the late Epidemic, many hundred people cured themselves of the yellow fever by ~~vomiting~~ sweating, bleeding & purging. ~~The~~ The persons who thus became their own Doctors, were more successful in their practice, than the regular bred Physicians, for they always met their disease on the day, or hour in which it affected them. — ~~The mortality of all~~ Acute diseases ~~[illegible]~~ of all kinds ~~are increased~~ become Mortal

I know it has been ~~Lets it not be~~ supposed ~~that~~ by those men who admit the possibility of the people at large being instructed in the treatment of acute diseases, that a regular & learned education will be necessary to cure such as are of a chronic nature. But this opinion will lose its force when we consider that 99 - out of an 100 chronic diseases ~~diseases~~, are the effects of ~~neglected~~ acute diseases being neglected, ~~or~~ but half cured or mistaken by Physicians.

chiefly by their ~~m~~ being neglected in their forming state. This neglect ~~is~~ often arises from the ~~expense~~ dread of the ~~me~~ remedies, or of the ~~expense~~ bills of a Physician, both of which will be avoided when sick people are taught to prescribe for themselves.

~~When this~~ I anticipate with pleasure the arrival of the period which ~~I have~~ has been ~~described~~ mentioned.

~~— much obstacles~~, A numerous body of men worthy will be returned by it to ~~the~~ more ~~to~~ happy & independent ~~useful~~ employments & ~~a large~~ all that ~~portion~~ ~~so~~ vexation & distress which ~~have been mentioned~~ are necessarily attached to the profession

of medicine will thereby be prevented. In
~~But until the arrival~~ thus destining
our ~~the~~ profession ~~of~~ to a revolution, Ex-
-cept from that fate, those members ~~that part~~ of it ~~ch~~
who practise ~~relate to~~ surgery. wounds, dislocations ~~&c~~
of bones, and external organic affections ~~diseases~~,
are but rare occurrences, compared with dis-
~~occur so rarely, as not to afford to~~
~~many~~ -eases, in civilized society.
~~individuals experience and intrepidity~~
~~ena to treat these with judgment~~
a habit of operating with safety
~~prompt to operate~~ ~~habits~~
and promp in such cases can only
be acquired by multiplied experience, ~~which~~
~~arises from a non~~ and this ~~would~~ can only be
the result of ~~such~~ all such cases falling
into a few hands. —

Hitherto Gent.n Dis views ~~of~~ de

prospects ~~of~~ in medicine have been of a gloomy nature. But ~~I shall not to~~ these views & prospects shall not close our pre=
=sent lecture. I have said that the vexations & distresses of a medical life, are so necessarily interwoven with the present state of society & human nature, ~~& the present~~ that they cannot be cured; ~~removed~~, but ~~they may be endured~~ I have great pleasure in adding, that there are considerations which will enable us not only to endure them, ~~and less~~ but to derive consolation from them.

In the 1st place, let us consider that we are ~~placed~~ fixed in our present situation by a wise & just Providence, and that in the eternal, & immutable order of

things as established in the divine mind, it could not have been otherwise. What we call evil, ~~if~~ is nothing but Good in disguise. — It is intended to beget in us ~~patience, and a Submission to the divine Will.~~ a perfection of character which can only be acquired ~~in the School~~ by suf=fering. — "He is not so much a great man (said ~~William Penn~~ the illustrious founder of Pennsylvania) who can do great things, as he is — who can patiently ~~endure~~ suffer ~~suffer~~ great things!" There are certain virtues, which, like ~~idle~~ inactive limbs, become feeble from the want of exercise. Pa=tience, fortitude, perseverance, & ~~above all~~ the forgiveness of injuries ~~could never~~ can only be ~~cherished~~ cultivated, ~~or~~ & displayed ~~by~~

"By the sadness of the countenance (says Solomon) the heart is ~~better~~ indeed made better".

Eccles. 7. 3

~~a Physician~~ in an eminent degree, by a Physician being ~~placed in the~~ exposed to all the causes of vexation which have been mentioned.

To enable us to support the distresses to which we are liable from the nature of our profession, let us recollect that by sympathizing with our ~~patients &~~ fellow creatures, we produce a sensibility in our ~~tempers~~ tempers ~~hearts~~ that is favourable to the growth of every virtue. The tears we shed over our dying patients, are not wasted: they are carefully preserved; ~~as~~ and if they flow ~~from a tender from~~ from proper motives, they will produce a ~~bountiful~~ harvest of joy, in another World. —

Lastly, ~~above all things~~, to enable us to bear both the vexations & distresses of our profession in a becoming manner, let us recollect the Character & example of the Saviour of the World. He was insulted with the most opprobious, and disgraceful names, — his best actions were ascribed, to the worst ~~of~~ motives, — He was accused of disaffection to the Government under which he lived, & finally he was deserted, & betrayed by ~~some~~ those who owed him the greatest obligations. ~~who owed him his friends & brethren~~. Of the Cup of human misery, he drank by Sympathy; the last bitter drop. He ~~was intimately~~ felt for every species of domestic infelicity. He even ~~groaned~~ ~~and~~ wept over the Corpse of a departed friend. In a word — ~~to~~ to use the con-

-phatical language of ~~the~~ the Scriptures he was in every respect "a man of sorrows & acquainted with grief." I compared with his ~~vocations~~ sufferings, ~~& distresses~~ all the the vexations ~~of~~ & distresses of a Physician, are like a ~~molehill~~ grain of sand, compared with the dimensions & contents of our globe.

It would be an act of in-gratitude to the great father of mercies, for which I should expect to suffer the reproaches of my conscience in secret, did I refuse to do public homage in this place, to his goodness ~~for my life, health and~~ by declaring, ~~this publicly~~ that it was by a firm

V "His hand," the Believer "fastens on
the skies,
"Then bids earth roll, nor feels
the idle whirl. ——

belief in the doctrines & promises of Christianity, that I was supported under the unusual share of vexa-tion & distress that fell to my lot during the prevalence of the late Epidemic. ~~Animated~~ encouraged by the example of the Author of our religion, and animated by prospects beyond the grave, there were times, in which I enjoyed my persecutions. V—

~~How~~ What ~~as~~ portion of business & reputation, ~~remains~~ the events ~~allude to~~ without of the late autumn may have left me, I know not; but as yet blessed be God, I ~~can truly say~~ am able to say they

have left me in my usual state of health, with my mind unbroken, and with such a ~~full~~ conviction of the truth & utility of my principles in medicine that ~~I the~~ in spite of all the efforts of the public and private slander, ~~the complicated malice of my enemies~~, I shall continue to propagate them, while I am able to speak, or to write. ——

Signs of Gratitude - Lady cured by D Darwin - Jenner - Bowers - Boerhaave - Mensius -
5 Great Cures, or Discoveries of new Remedies
so did Sydenham feel &c
7 private friendships - social pleasures

Compar. View - mechanic &c

V Solicitude whether we have done too much, or too little.

If we make friends of them – they feel most sensibly our neglect – real or supposed – even not visiting them in health

giving patient over to death in cases as Mrs Mifflin

Imputable in young Drs

tend to support the Doctrine of fever which has been taught for many years from this Chair]

solitude - doubtful of nature of disease - &c remedy - importance of life - friends &c

6 In the The pleasures - forget not Conversion of disease or symp: into it &c

Pleasures

1 in study - all its branches - Lect: -

2 Travelling - madness - only child - head of a family -

3 practice individually, or in Epidemics -

4 Rewards - great in Europe - Dr Hucks expressions &c

Signs of gratitude - Lady cured by Dr Darwin - kissing hand - Jenner -

honors - Boerhaave - Hensius -

5 Great Cures, or Discoveries of new Remedies

w did Sydenham feel ? &c

7 private friendships - social pleasures

Compar: View - mechanic &c

vexation from physicians

discovers itself - 1 in using their ignorance - of ~~diseases~~ of Remedies - ~~of~~ ~~Ignor~~ the laws of Hyd: and even of the laws of the Animal Oecony. — — These the worst - if Obliged to consult with them - 2 Envy - shews itself in

3 ~~ess~~ dishon^ble conduct to get patients, private visits - opposing usual; in one word & giving them in allies.

but this wealth is the product of the labor of his ~~hands & heads~~ limbs, and not of his mind & the pleasure he ~~d~~ enjoys in it, is 4^t of a week: & not of a phys:

of years the difficulty of the Undertaking.
~~[illegible]~~ And I ~~[illegible]~~ expect that
nothing but my death will appease the
resentment which w